

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:

The attached replacement drawings sheets include changes to FIGS. 1, 4, and 5. More particularly, descriptive and functional labels have been added to these figures, as suggested by the Examiner. The attached annotated drawing sheets show where labels have been added.

Attachments: 3 Replacement Sheets illustrating FIGS. 1, 4, and 5
 3 Annotated Sheets showing changes to FIGS. 1, 4, and 5

REMARKS

Applicants submit this reply in response to the non-final Office Action mailed December 1, 2006, the period for response being extended through April 1, 2007, with the concurrent filing of a petition for one-month extension of time and payment of the requisite fee. Before this response, claims 21-40 were pending, of which claims 21, 30, 34, and 40 were independent. In this response, Applicants have amended independent claim 40 to expressly incorporate various steps recited in independent claim 21 simply as a matter of form. Applicants have also added new claims 41-52, including new independent claims 41, 46, 50, and 52. Accordingly, claims 21-52 are currently pending, of which claims 21, 30, 34, 40, 41, 46, 50, and 52 are independent.

The Examiner objected to the drawings for failing to provide descriptive and functional labels in FIGS. 1, 4, and 5 (Office Action ¶ 1). The Examiner rejected claim 40 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement (Office Action ¶¶ 2-3). In addition, the Examiner allowed claims 21-39 (Office Action ¶ 4). As discussed below in more detail, Applicants respectfully traverse the pending objections and rejections and request reconsideration of the application.

Drawings Objections

At paragraph 1 in the Office Action, the Examiner objected to the functional blocks shown in FIGS. 1, 4, and 5 for failing to provide corresponding descriptive and functional labels. Accordingly, Applicants submit a set of replacement and annotated drawing sheets including the missing labels, thereby obviating the Examiner's drawings objections.

Claim Rejections

Claim 40 is the only pending claim that currently stands rejected. Specifically, claim 40 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, ¶ 1 for allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. See Office Action, ¶¶ 2-3. The Examiner reasoned that “[t]he specification of the instant application does not disclose an adequate and enabling disclosure for the claimed ‘computer program product’. It is found nowhere in the specification, a detail disclosure of the ‘computer program product’, ‘memory’ and ‘software code portions’ for enabling the claimed ‘computer program product.’” *Id.*, ¶ 3. As evidence, the Examiner cites the absence of a “computer program product” in the description on page 7 of the Applicants’ specification. *Id.*

Although the term “computer program product” is not expressly included on page 7 of the specification, Applicants respectfully point out that the “computer program product” recited in claim 40 is, indeed, expressly taught elsewhere in the specification:

The present invention also relates to a corresponding network architecture and a computer program product loadable in the memory of at least one computer and including software code portions for performing the method of the invention.

Specification, p. 5, ll. 30-34. Other disclosure of the Applicants’ claimed “computer program product” may be found, among other places, in the originally-filed claims, title, and software implementations taught in the specification. Furthermore, those skilled in the art will understand that the “computer program product... including software code portions,” as recited in claim 40 and described in the Applicants’ specification, may be embodied as a computer program product containing computer-readable storage adapted to store, for example, the software code portions.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that the specification provides sufficient disclosure for enabling one of ordinary skill in the art to practice the Applicants' claimed "computer program product" recited in claim 40.

Conclusion

The preceding remarks are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding remarks in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

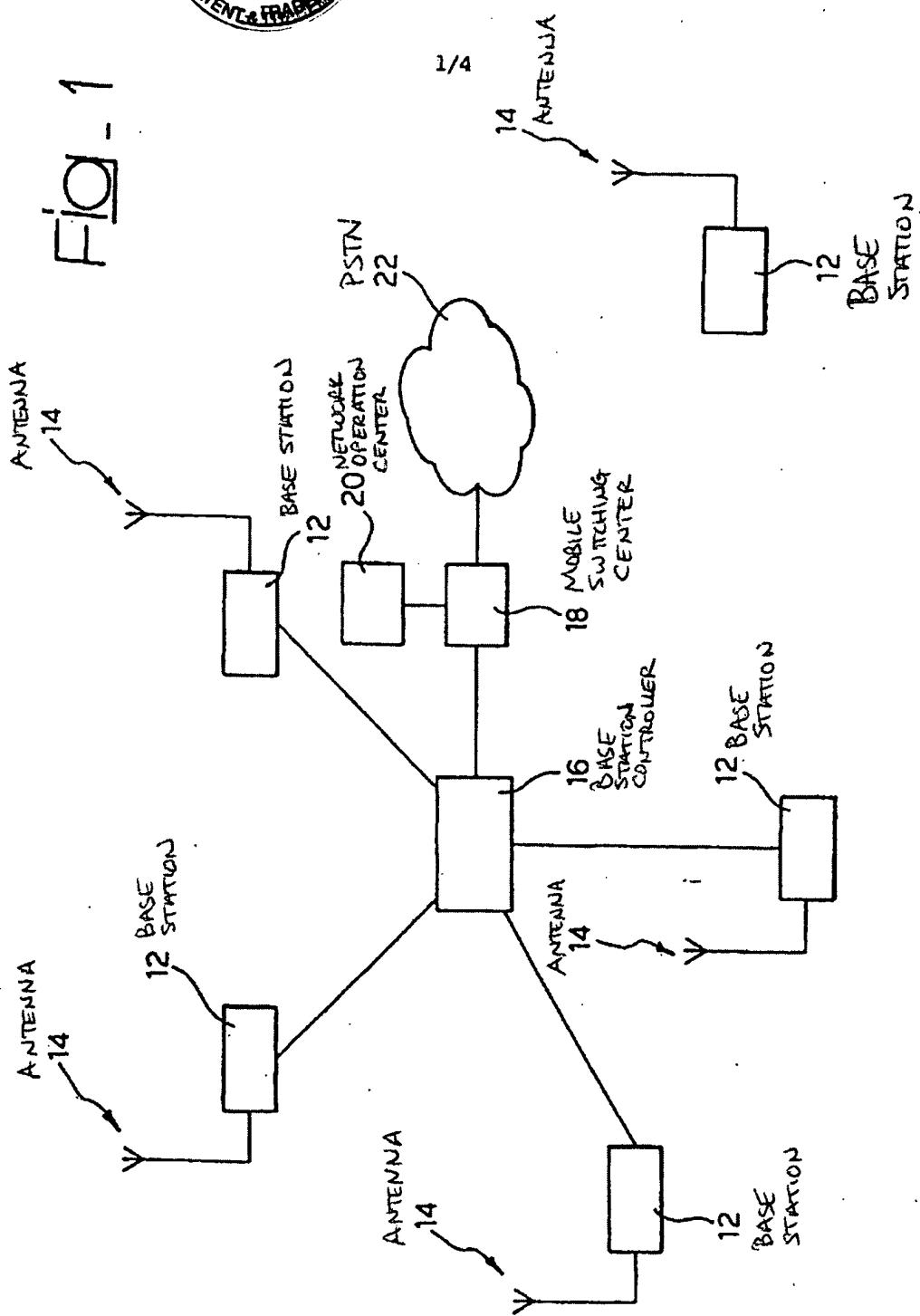
Dated: April 2, 2007
(April 1, 2007 being a Sunday)

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ANNOTATED SHEET

FIG. 1



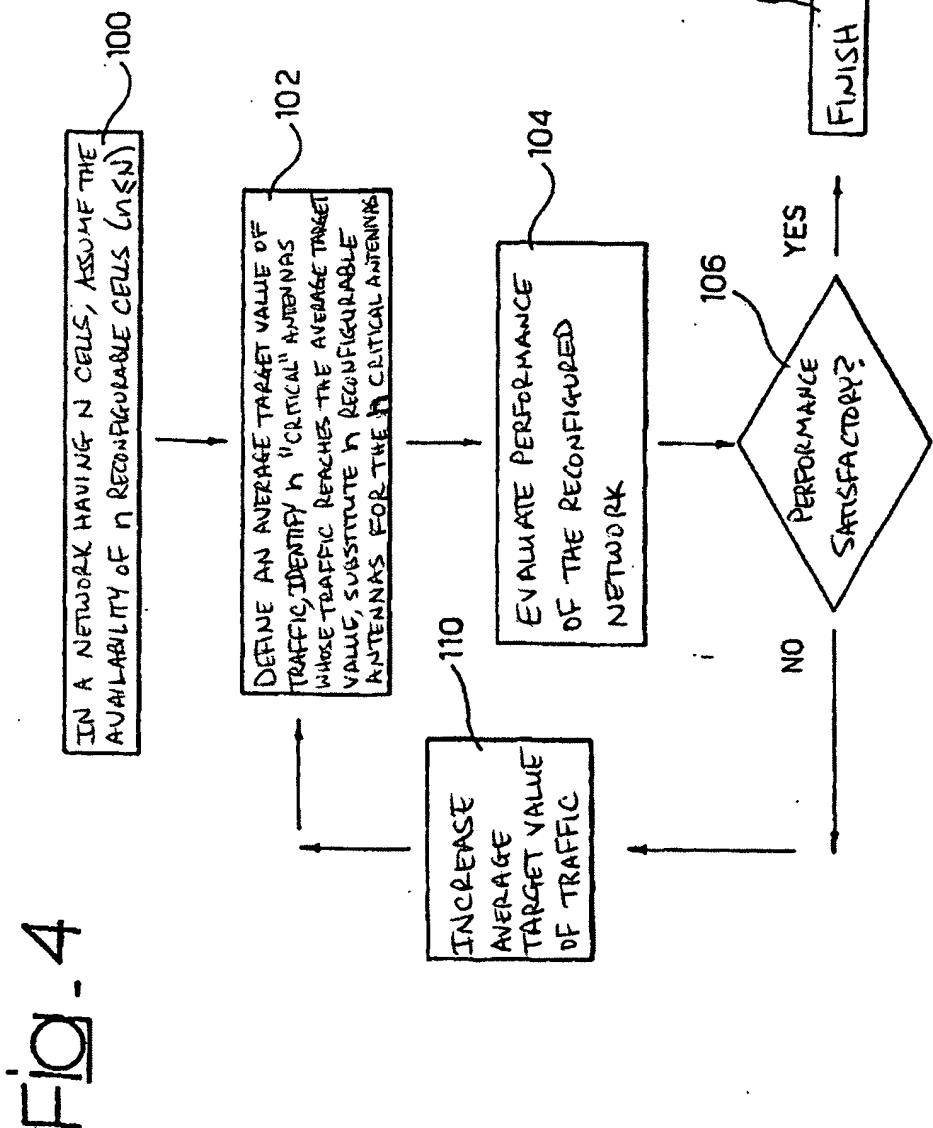


Fig. 5

